

protect the fundamental right to vote. The Constitution gives Congress the power to oversee Federal elections. That means that Congress has the authority to protect democracy and the right to vote, and we have a constitutional and moral obligation to do so. That was part of the oath I swore, to “support and defend the Constitution” and “bear true faith and allegiance to the same.”

Congress has a responsibility to act now to ensure that the right of every American to vote is never taken away. We must pass legislation to prevent partisan politicians from rejecting the will of the people and overturning election results. Because that effort here in Congress is being blocked by a minority, which is abusing its power, I believe the time has come to change the Senate rules to allow a straight up-or-down majority vote on this fundamental issue of democracy.

Our Founders understood that our democracy was a fragile thing that we would always have to fight to protect. Across every generation, Americans have signed up to serve not just to protect our physical security but to protect our freedom.

American soldiers, like my father, fought in World War II. They saved the world from Hitler, preserving freedom around the globe. My dad fought in the Battle of the Bulge. When I was growing up and we were having breakfast, Dad would sometimes look up at my brother, my sister, and me, and he would say, “So what are you going to do for freedom today?” Sounds like kind of a big question to ask a kid, but he was serious because every single American has a responsibility to help protect our democracy, including and perhaps especially U.S. Senators.

We must change the Senate rules to protect the right to vote because if we don’t, we face a very different kind of election day than the one we have now. If the partisans who are attacking our democracy have their way, our Tuesday election day in early November will be different. We will wake up, cast our vote, drop our kids at school, and go to work. We will tune back in at the end of the day to see the election results, only to learn that the vote tally is being ignored, that our votes don’t matter much. We will learn that our legislatures are going to throw out the results and pick their own winner. We will see an election day that is a charade just like in countries where democracy doesn’t exist.

Our democracy is too important to allow a minority of this body to let it slip away. We must pass legislation to protect American democracy. Our country depends on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the following nominations en bloc: 622, 629, 630, 595, 596, 607, 608, and all the nominations on the Secretary’s desk in the Army, Foreign Service, and Space Force; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Thomas Barrett, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; Shannon Corless, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury; Kurt D. DelBene, of Washington, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology); Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce; Maria Louise Lago, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; the following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: To be Vice Admiral Rear Adm. Collin P. Green; the following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 154 and 601: To be Admiral Adm. Christopher W. Grady; PN1461 ARMY nomination of Todd E. Moszer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of December 7, 2021; PN726 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (35) beginning Arthur W. Brown, and ending Peter C. Trenchard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of June 22, 2021; PN728—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (153) beginning Rahel Aboye, and ending Kyra Turner Zogbekor, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of June 22, 2021; PN1317 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (228) beginning Adam Jeffrey Abramson, and ending Jessica Torres Yurcheshen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of October 27, 2021; PN1318 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (6) beginning Mario D. Ambrosino, and ending Cristobal Zepeda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of October 27, 2021; PN1320 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (53) beginning Nicholas R. Abbate, and ending Maria E. Snarski, which nominations were received by

the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of October 27, 2021; and PN1463 SPACE FORCE nominations (8) beginning MARC D. DANIELS, and ending JAY M. STEINGOLD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of December 7, 2021?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, while I was necessarily absent for the confirmation votes of Ramin Toloui and Rashad Hussain, I want the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect my support for their confirmations. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative.

Ramin Toloui is nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs. He is the professor of the Practice for International Finance at Stanford University, and the Tad and Diane Taube Policy Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. His teaching and research focus on international economic policy, financial crises, and the economic impact of artificial intelligence. He began his career as a civil servant at the Department of the Treasury. His nomination was favorably reported by the Foreign Relations Committee, and he is superbly qualified to hold this position.

Rashad Hussain is nominated to be Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom. He is a senior counsel at the Department of Justice’s National Security Division. He previously served as President Obama’s Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation—OIC—as U.S. Special Envoy for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, and as Deputy Associate White House Counsel. In his role as OIC Envoy, Professor Hussain helped develop U.S. policy and deepen and expand partnerships with Muslim-majority countries, civil society organizations, and the OIC, the world’s second largest multilateral organization after the UN. As Special Envoy for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, Professor Hussain led an interagency body that worked with international partners to amplify credible narratives in countering terrorist propaganda. Having been reported favorably by the Foreign Relations Committee, I have no doubt of his qualifications for this position.